

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 1924**



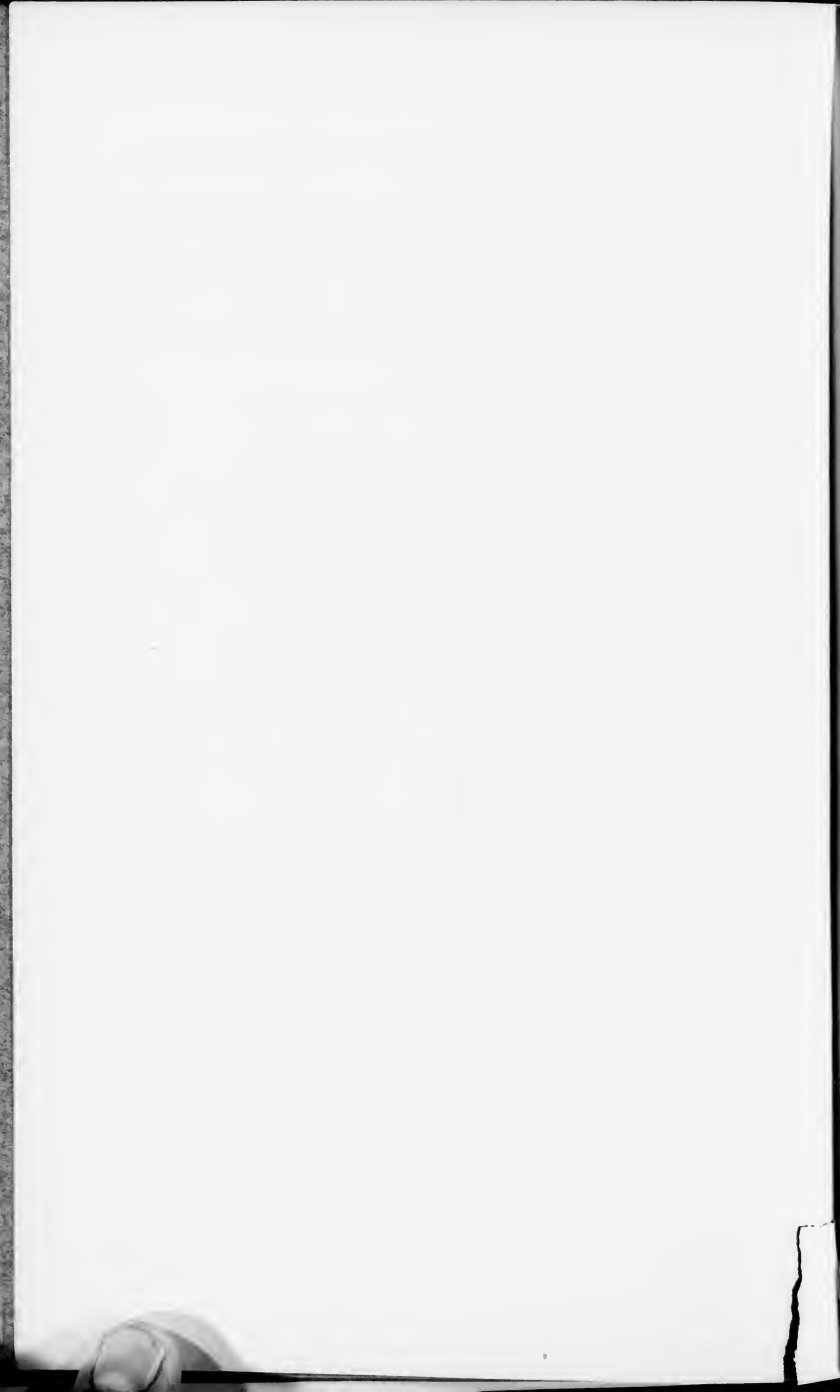
**WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 1, 1924.

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

I submit the following report of the transactions of the fire department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924:

During the year 2,670 alarms of fire were received, a decrease of 122 from the number received during the fiscal year 1923. Of these alarms, 1,267 were box alarms and 1,403 local or telephone calls.

Of the alarms received, 278 were false, this number being 68 more than the number received during the preceding year. Convictions were obtained in several cases. In three instances the guilty persons were fined \$30 each; two others were fined \$60 and \$75, respectively; one sentence imposed was a fine of \$225 and 60 days in jail; and in another, involving four children, the offenders were placed upon probation. The police department rendered great assistance to the fire department in these instances.

Nine fires of probable incendiary origin and 22 fires with which suspicious circumstances were connected were investigated during the year. No convictions, however, were obtained.

The total loss by fire during the year is estimated at \$1,021,431, a decrease of \$1,052,665 from the amount of the loss during the fiscal year 1923. It will be noted that this is more than a 50 per cent decrease in the amount of loss, and needless to say is a source of great gratification to the department.

FIRE PREVENTION

The inspectors under the supervision of the fire marshal have performed good work during the year, many conditions which constituted fire hazards having been corrected by their efforts. The increasing use of oil-burning equipment for heating and power purposes has materially added to the work to be performed by these men, and an increase in the personnel of the fire-prevention force should be made.

The fire-prevention inspection work, which is performed by members of fire companies, under the supervision of their battalion and company commanding officers, has been pursued with vigor during the year, and there can be no doubt but that it has resulted in a diminution of the fire risk in the classes of buildings inspected, including schools, apartment houses, hotels, homes for the aged, etc.

It is hoped that at some future date the department's personnel will be increased to such an extent as to permit us to extend this inspection work to mercantile establishments, garages, and other locations which we are not now able to cover.

DISCIPLINE

The commissioners during the year removed seven members of the department for serious infractions of the rules and regulations. Minor infractions numbered 142.

PENSIONS

The following pensions were granted during the year:

James Childs, private, retired July 11, 1923, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

Elizabeth Owen Clark, widow of the late Capt. W. A. Clark (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective August 22, 1923.

Agnes Louise Hill, widow of the late Pvt. S. C. Hill, was granted relief in the amount of \$40 per month, effective October 19, 1923.

Daisy Kinsinger, widow of the late Pvt. John Kinsinger, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 per month for the use of her son, effective October 13, 1923.

F. J. Sylvester, private, retired October 31, 1923, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

Grace E. Virts, widow of the late Lieut. W. W. Virts (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective October 31, 1923.

Mrs. Catherine Frazier, widow of the late Pvt. James Frazier (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective November 15, 1923.

F. P. Clements, private, retired February 29, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

L. O. Turner, private, retired April 21, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

C. W. Buhler, private, retired February 29, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

J. D. O'Connor, private, retired March 20, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

Mrs. Corrine Buhler, widow of the late Pvt. C. W. Buhler (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective March 27, 1924.

S. N. Rollins, private, retired May 31, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

J. S. Farley, private, retired June 30, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

C. F. Mullineaux, private, retired June 30, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of \$69.16 per month.

DEATHS

During the year the department lost but one active member by death, Pvt. J. G. Kinsinger, who died on October 10, 1923.

The following pensioners died during the year:

Pensioner W. A. Clark died August 21, 1923.

Pensioner W. W. Virts died October 28, 1923.

Pensioner James Frazier died November 14, 1923.

Pensioner T. P. Purcell died February 12, 1924.

Pensioner Conrad Weitzel died February 25, 1924.

Pensioner C. W. Buhler died March 11, 1924.

Pensioner Mary Holohan died April 16, 1924.

HORSES

On July 1, 1923, the department had on hand 67 horses. During the year 2 died, 2 were sold, and 4 were condemned and transferred to other District departments.

Comparatively few of these horses are used and maintained by the fire department, the great majority being loaned to other District departments for use and maintenance, subject to the call of the fire department in case of emergency caused by the failure of motor apparatus through accident, necessity for overhauling, repairs, etc.

TRAINING SCHOOL

Since 1911, when the fire department's drill tower, by reason of its unsafe and dilapidated condition, was razed, we have had no proper facilities for the training of firemen in the work which they must perform upon the fire ground. Repeated efforts have been made by the commissioners to obtain appropriations for a drill tower, but so far without success. The District of Columbia is far behind most metropolitan cities in this regard, and it is hoped that it will be possible in the not far distant future to obtain funds for the erection of such a building. Long ago the proposition of limiting the training of firemen to the knowledge which they may pick up upon the fire ground was discarded because of its insufficiency and limitations. The District of Columbia should not be less progressive than other cities of the United States.

MOTORIZATION

While the department at the present time has no companies in service with horse-drawn apparatus, the need for additional motor apparatus is constantly growing. Christie tractor-drawn pieces in active service, as well as the older pieces of motor apparatus, are in bad condition, unreliable, and should be replaced at an early date. We have found it necessary to limit the speed of the Christie tractor-drawn steam fire engines to 12 miles per hour, and this limitation renders this apparatus practically useless so far as its initial work on the fire ground is concerned. During the year just ended the department placed in service four new 1,000-gallon pumping engines (engine companies 1, 6, 14, and 16), one new aerial hook and ladder truck (truck company No. 3), and one new city service truck (truck company No. 8), all motor driven. This new equipment made it possible for us to place four Christie tractor-drawn steamers, one motor aerial truck, and one horse-drawn aerial truck, which were old and dilapidated, on the reserve list. While this new apparatus

was of great benefit to the department, the need for more new apparatus still exists, and with regard to the old apparatus to be replaced it becomes more acute as time goes on. The department's apparatus, both active and reserve, should be maintained at the highest possible standard of condition, and it is hoped that this standard may be attained in the near future by the replacement of equipment which is practically worn out.

SALARIES

In my annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, I called attention to the fact that the act providing for the classification of salaries of Government employees, passed during that year, specifically exempted the officers and members of the fire department from the benefits of its provisions, and called attention to the necessity for action looking toward a readjustment of the compensation paid these men. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to record that the efforts made by the commissioners in this regard were successful, and that a substantial increase in compensation has been granted to all of the fire department's force. The act of Congress by which this was accomplished, that approved May 27, 1924, not only granted increases in salary, but also provided that, in lieu of Sunday, one day off in seven be granted to each officer and member of the department. In order to comply with this provision of law and allow each officer and member of the department one day off in every seven days, additional men will have to be provided by Congress. An effort to obtain these men (6 captains, 6 lieutenants, 6 sergeants, and 97 privates) was made during the last session of Congress, but due to the legislative jam at the end of the session the deficiency bill, in which the items were included, failed of passage. It has been and will be impossible to place the provision of law referred to in effect until such time as appropriations for the additional men are granted. It is hoped that Congress, immediately after it convenes in December, will take speedy action looking toward the provision of funds for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the estimates for the fiscal year to end June 30, 1926, which have recently been forwarded to the commissioners, recommendations have been made for such improvements in the service as require funds for consummation. It is sincerely hoped that the commissioners will find it possible to make sufficient allowances to carry out the program which has been recommended.

CONCLUSION

My sincere thanks are extended to the commissioners for the cooperation and assistance which they have rendered me in my work during the past year. The officers and members of the department have conducted themselves in a most praiseworthy manner, and to them I express my appreciation of the loyal support which they have accorded me.

GEO. S. WATSON,
Chief Engineer.

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1924.

To the CHIEF ENGINEER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I submit the following report of activities of the fire marshal's office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924:

During the year 2,670 alarms of fire were received and investigated by this office. This is a decrease of 122 as compared with the number received during the preceding year. Of these 2,670 alarms of fire, 1,267 were box alarms, an increase of 35 box alarms over the number received during the preceding year; 1,403 were local alarms or telephone calls, a decrease of 157 over the number received during the preceding year.

The loss caused by the 1,267 box alarms is estimated at \$967,431, part of which was covered by insurance of \$22,869,905. The loss caused by the 1,403 local alarms is estimated at \$54,000, part of which was covered by insurance of \$25,175,900.

The total loss for the fiscal year is estimated at \$1,021,431, a fraction over 2.1 per cent of the total insurance of \$48,045,805.

During the year 23 fires occurred for which additional alarms were received. They were as follows:

August 21, 1923, box 12, at 1.16 a. m., followed by a second at 1.21 a. m., and a fourth at 1.23 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick rooming house located at 201, 203, and 205 Indiana Avenue NW.; estimated loss	\$1, 600
October 15, 1923, box 936, at 8.34 p. m., followed by a third at 8.46 p. m., for fire in a one-story iron airplane hangar located at Bolling Field, Army air station, District of Columbia; estimated loss	20, 000
October 16, 1923, box 152, at 8.14 p. m., followed by a second at 8.17 p. m., and a third at 8.21 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick commission house located at 212 Tenth Street NW.; estimated loss	6, 800
October 17, 1923, box 152, at 6.51 p. m., followed by a second at 6.54 p. m., and a third at 6.56 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick farm implements store located at 304 Tenth Street NW.; estimated loss	2, 050
October 22, 1923, box 646, at 2.44 a. m., followed by a second at 2.48 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick apartment house and sheds located at 49 to 57 1/2 Hanover Street NW.; estimated loss	7, 690
October 22, 1923, box 319, at 9.32 a. m., followed by a second at 9.32 a. m., for fire in a three-story stone dwelling located at 2007 Massachusetts Avenue NW.; estimated loss	1, 800
November 9, 1923, box 6173, at 4.48 a. m., followed by a third at 4.54 a. m., and a fourth at 5.11 a. m., for fire in one-story brick cake warehouse, one-story brick wholesale grocery warehouse, and two-story wholesale grocery warehouse located at Nos. 513 to 533 Rhode Island Avenue NE.; estimated loss	118, 075
November 9, 1923, box 657, at 9.53 a. m., followed by a second at 10.02 a. m., a third at 10.10 a. m., and a fourth at 10.28 a. m., for fire in a two-story brick furniture warehouse located at 90 L Street NE.; estimated loss	70, 000
December 17, 1923, box 722, at 7.28 p. m., followed by a second at 7.31 p. m., a third at 7.40 p. m., and a fourth at 7.50 p. m., for fire in a two-story cement warehouse located at 3031 K Street NW.; estimated loss	1, 900
December 20, 1923, box 747, at 2.46 p. m., followed by a second at 2.53 p. m., and a third at 3.09 p. m., for fire in a two-story and attic frame dwelling located at Broadbranch Road and Rittenhouse Streets NW.; estimated loss	8, 000
January 26, 1924, box 454, at 7.17 p. m., followed by a second at 7.24 p. m., a third at 7.29 p. m., a fourth at 7.33 p. m., and a fifth at 7.56 p. m., for fire in a two-story frame office building and a steamboat located at the foot of Seventh and Water Streets SW.; estimated loss	298, 000

February 6, 1924, box 315, at 7.40 a. m., followed by a second at 7.43 a. m., and a third at 7.51 a. m., for fire in three-story brick apartment house located at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW.; estimated loss.....	\$6,685
February 10, 1924, box 512, at 7.25 a. m., followed by a second at 7.31 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick apartment house and dry goods store located at 101 Seventh Street and 657 A Street SE., respectively; estimated loss.....	350
March 17, 1924, box 685, at 6.37 p. m., followed by a third at 6.47 p. m., and a fourth at 6.59 p. m., for fire in a two-story tile and iron waste-paper warehouse located at Fifth and V Streets NE.; estimated loss.....	28,000
March 25, 1924, box 124, at 6.02 a. m., followed by a third at 6.07 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick drug store and rooming house located at 638 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss.....	8,527
March 25, 1924, box 152, at 9.59 p. m., followed by a second at 10.04 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick commission house located at 207 and 209 Tenth Street, NW.; estimated loss.....	900
May 3, 1924, box 6195, at 1.45 p. m., followed by a second at 1.50 p. m., a third at 1.58 p. m., and a fourth at 2.03 p. m., for fire in a one-story iron shop located at Fourth and Channing Streets NW.; estimated loss.....	13,500
May 11, 1924, box 827, at 1.34 a. m., followed by a second at 1.39 a. m., for fire in a two-story and basement brick public school located on Fourth Street between W and Bryant Streets NW.; estimated loss.....	3,600
May 12, 1924, box 566, at 7.56 p. m., followed by a second at 8.05 p. m., for fire in a two-story frame shed located at 1302 to 1306 Eleventh Street SE.; estimated loss.....	300
May 25, 1924, box 142, at 3.06 a. m., followed by a second at 3.11 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick jewelry store located at 1311-1313 F Street NW.; estimated loss.....	7,000
May 26, 1924, box 731, at 8.59 p. m., followed by a third at 9.02 p. m., a fourth at 9.08 p. m., and a fifth at 9.23 p. m., for fire in a lumber yard at 3005 to 3019 K Street NW. and 1007 Jefferson Street NW.; estimated loss.....	76,390
June 7, 1924, box 458, at 9.16 p. m., followed by a second at 9.28 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick ice house located at 507 to 513 Eleventh Street SW.; estimated loss.....	400
June 27, 1924, box 231, at 1.36 p. m., followed by a second at 1.42 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick Army and Navy supply store located at 1335 Seventh Street SW.; estimated loss.....	12,800
Total.....	694,367

It will be noted that 14 of the foregoing fires involved a loss in excess of \$5,000. In addition to these 14 fires, 6 other fires occurred in the District of Columbia during the year, involving a loss each of more than \$5,000, for which only single alarms were sounded. They were as follows:

July 1, 1923, box 147, at 2.44 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick club house located at 21 Madison Place NW.; estimated loss.....	\$10,592
August 23, 1923, box 73, at 1.48 a. m., for fire in a two-story frame grocery store located at 3213 and 3215 P Street NW.; estimated loss.....	6,150
September 20, 1923, No. 28 engine company, Nos. 9 and 12 truck companies, on local at 2.06 p. m., for fire in a one-story brick laboratory located at Connecticut Avenue and Pierce Mill Road; estimated loss.....	10,000
October 6, 1923, box 125, at 9.25 p. m., for fire in a four-story stone jewelry store located at 417 Seventh Street NW.; estimated loss.....	15,000
February 24, 1924, box 613, at 8.23 p. m., for fire in two-story brick tailor shop and dwelling and two-story brick confectionery store located at 413 and 415 H Street NE.; estimated loss.....	5,575
March 22, 1924, box 797, at 6.59 a. m., for fire in one-story frame shop located at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues NE.; estimated loss.....	30,000
Total.....	77,317

The foregoing 23 fires, for which additional alarms were sounded, and the 6 fires for which single alarms were sounded, and for which the loss in each exceeded \$5,000, caused a total loss of \$771,684, which leaves a loss of \$249,747 for the remaining 2,641 alarms of fire.

The District of Columbia fire department was called upon on two other occasions to fight fires in which the losses exceeded \$5,000, but as both of these fires occurred outside of the District of Columbia they are not included in the District losses. They were as follows:

July 14, 1923, No. 5 engine company and No. 5 truck company on local at 10.25 a. m., for fire in one-story cement and frame garage and salesroom located on Military Road, Rosslyn, Va.; estimated loss... \$13,069
 March 15, 1924, No. 10 engine company on local at 1.16 p. m., for fire in frame dwellings located at Upper Marlboro, Md.; estimated loss... 25,000

FIRE LOSS

The loss for fiscal year, when compared with the loss for the preceding year, shows a decrease of \$1,052,665. Part of this decrease can be credited to the alertness of both the inspectors of this office and firemen sent out from the different fire stations in preventing the accumulation of paper and trash and eliminating other fire hazards in their districts. More than one-half of the total loss was caused by four fires, the details of which are hereinbefore given, viz:

The fire at the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co. and John H. Wilkins Co., located at 513 to 533 Rhode Island Avenue NE., involving a loss of \$118,075; Philip Levy Co., furniture warehouse, \$70,000; Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co., \$298,000; and the W. T. Galliher & Bro. lumber yard, together with other buildings in the vicinity, involving a loss of \$76,390.

During the year the District of Columbia fire department responded to 38 fires at near-by points in Maryland and Virginia and rendered all possible aid in extinguishing them and preventing their spread. In a number of these cases there was no estimate made by this department of the amount of damage. In the cases, however, on which the damage was estimated it amounted in the aggregate to \$49,769.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FIRE

Ashes (hot) placed in wooden containers or against combustible material.	32
Automobiles—back-firing, carburetor leaking, electric wires short-circuiting, gasoline igniting	304
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning	289
Chimneys, soot in, defective	255
Electric appliances, electric wires	86
Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves	31
Gasoline, careless with	31
Matches, careless with; children playing with; rats and mice causing matches to ignite	276
Smoking, careless	279
Sparks	128

FALSE ALARMS

During the year 278 false alarms of fire were received, an increase of 68 as compared with the preceding year. Members of the fire marshal's office and the police department made a thorough investigation of each case, causing 10 arrests. In three of these cases the parties were fined \$30 each; another party was fined \$225 and sentenced by the court to serve 60 days in jail, and two others were fined \$60 and \$75, respectively; in the remaining cases, which involved one girl and three boys, the parties were confined in the House of Detention for a short time and finally dismissed on probation.

INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

During the year there were 22 fires which appeared to be of a suspicious nature and 9 of incendiary origin. In one of these cases a colored man was arrested and finally released for lack of evidence. In another case a white man was taken into custody and died immediately afterwards. There was not sufficient evidence in the remaining cases to indicate who the guilty parties are.

FOURTH OF JULY FIRES

The prohibition placed on the sale and use of explosives in connection with the Fourth of July celebration has greatly reduced the number of fires in the

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FOURTH OF JULY FIRES

The prohibition placed on the sale and use of explosives in connection with the Fourth of July celebration has greatly reduced the number of fires in the

District of Columbia during the celebration of Independence Day, there having been only four fires caused by fireworks incident to this celebration in 1923.

INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,084 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 328 oil-burning heaters, making a total of 668 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. Before permits were issued by this office to install these plants careful inspections were made by inspectors of this office to see that the regulations governing the installation of oil-burning equipment could be complied with in each case, and subsequent inspections were made to see that these plants had been installed in strict compliance with the regulations.

Three hundred and four installations of gasoline tanks were made in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. As in the case of the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made to see that the regulations governing the installation of these tanks could be complied with before permits to install them were issued. At the end of the fiscal year there were in the District of Columbia 882 public gasoline stations.

Fifty-two licenses were approved to handle ammunition for small arms other than cartridges for pistols.

INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year by the corps of inspectors connected with the fire marshal's office was 56,318 of this number there were 3,247 complaints. Eight thousand, six hundred fifty-seven notices were served to remedy conditions creating fire hazards, and it was found necessary to take only 8 of these cases to court.

In addition to the above inspections, 107,667 inspections were made of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc., by firemen connected with the different fire stations.

MOTION-PICTURE THEATERS AND OTHER THEATERS

All motion-picture theaters and open-air motion-picture parks in the District of Columbia were inspected to see that all fire appliances were in proper working order prior to issuance of annual licenses. Each motion-picture theater and each open-air motion-picture park, in addition to the foregoing inspections, was inspected by members of the fire marshal's office at least once each week while the theater or park was open to the public. All told, there were 60 motion-picture theaters and motion-picture parks in operation during the year. In addition to these there were in operation 11 so-called "legitimate theaters."

A uniformed member of the fire department was detailed for duty at each performance held in the "legitimate theaters." All scenery arriving in the District of Columbia for use in any of them was tested as to fireproof qualities, and if found not to stand the test the managers were required to treat it with a fireproof solution or else remove it from the theater before giving a performance.

In many halls and places of public assembly, where entertainments were held, one or more uniformed firemen were in attendance during such entertainment and it was seen by members of this office that all scenery and decorations of a combustible nature used in connection with these gatherings were treated with a fireproof solution.

MOTION-PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS

All applicants for permits to operate motion-picture machines in the District of Columbia are required to submit a written examination which is taken in the office of the fire marshal and gone over and rated by a member of the electrical engineer's office of the District of Columbia.

MOTION-PICTURE FILM EXCHANGES

An inspector of the fire marshal's office makes a test once each month of the sprinkler systems in all film exchanges in the district, and at least three times each week he makes a thorough inspection of all the exchanges, including the several Government motion-picture laboratories and film storage rooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the seven privates at present detailed at the fire marshal's office for inspection work be promoted to inspectors. It must be borne in mind that such details are but temporary in character and necessarily can continue only so long as conditions in the fire fighting force of the fire department may warrant. The present force is, therefore, subject at any time to reduction to such an extent as to render practically impossible a proper enforcement of the fire-prevention regulations. The rapid growth of the city during the past several years, in the way of large apartment houses, office buildings, dwellings and garages, has largely increased the work of this office.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the fire marshal's office for their hearty cooperation given me during the past year, and also to the members of the various fire stations who assisted in the work of inspecting and reducing fire hazards.

L. V. SEIB,
Fire Marshal.

TABLE NO. 1.—*Number of alarms responded to by companies*

	First alarm	Second alarm	Third alarm	Fourth alarm	Fifth alarm	Sixth alarm	Local alarm	Time worked, engine		Hose laid	Hose bursted	Ladders raised	Fires extinguished by chemicals		Hand pumps used	Transfers	Special alarms
								<i>H.</i>	<i>M.</i>				<i>Feet</i>	<i>Feet</i>			
Engine company:																	
No. 1	203	5	1	5			90	67	00	49,450			54	32	5	3	
No. 2	200	8	4				60	70	30	23,200	50	200	24	26	18	4	
No. 3	226	9	4	1			31	85	30	25,800	50	236	33	35	28	3	
No. 4	195	4	1				41	37	50	21,250	450	66	27	37	7	2	
No. 5	81				1		67	74	40	36,000	50	164	30	16	11	2	
No. 6	278	3	4	1			54	59	15	27,750	50	60	29	30		1	
No. 7	320	3	6	3	1		61	62	00	30,550	550	112	48	51	23	4	
No. 8	224	2	6		1		37	33	00	21,500	300	12	9	27	10	11	
No. 9	205	4	7	3	1		98	55	50	26,650		20	10	22	15	6	
No. 10	171	4	5	1	2		47	57	00	43,650	200	132	44	19	14	5	3
No. 11	137	2		4	1		85	11	30	18,250		40	20	9	5		
No. 12	259	1	4	1	2		58	90	30	28,800	300	100	45	30	19	6	
No. 13	133	5	1	1	1		32	40	30	15,500	400	16	9	6	3		
No. 14	219	1	3	1			44	78	30	27,000	150	140	24	30	1	1	
No. 15	70				2		19	13	30	16,090	150	60	15	9	7	2	
No. 16	164	2	4				39	62	15	14,760		68	36	10	8	6	
No. 17	66				1		33	22	45	7,250	250	72	4	3	2	6	
No. 18	159	1	1	1	1		31	28	50	20,500	150	20	12	4	5	5	
No. 19	60	1			1		18	9	00	6,960		3	2	2	1		
No. 20	28				1		52	29	15	16,550	250	12	4	2	1		
No. 21	106	3	2				43	39	00	12,600	150	16	17	3	10	6	
No. 22	50	1			1		47	13	5	11,500	100	30	10	5	2		
No. 23	121	3	2	3			51	34	15	11,150	150	56	12	18	14	5	
No. 24	116	2		4	2		49	19	00	19,500	100	92	32	7	22	3	
No. 25	55	1					21	16	00	16,300	150	206	20	8	2	2	
No. 26	49	3			1		19	16	30	8,950	200	20	3	1	1	2	
No. 27	25						31	12	00	13,400	200	176	13	8	6	8	
No. 28	58			2			54	26	15	16,850	200	24	11	2	2	8	
Truck company:																	
No. 1	180	4	2				47					2,774	8		1	4	
No. 2	185	2					118					2,321	18		9	12	
No. 3	169	3	2				65					3,401	3				1
No. 4	396	1	3	2	1		115					4,771	23		7	6	
No. 5	27	2	2				30					504	8		4	7	
No. 6	106	2	3		2		70					1,224				4	
No. 7	174		3	1	1		64					1,304	10		3	2	
No. 8	47						12					204	1	2		1	
No. 9	73	1	3	3			38					940	3		1	2	
No. 10	153	5	2	2			26					1,577	9		3	6	
No. 11	37						25					442					
No. 12	24						41					1,461		3	1	1	
Fireboat No. 1	32						9	32	20	4,300	150	12	2				
Water tower		15															

District of Columbia during the celebration of Independence Day, there having been only four fires caused by fireworks incident to this celebration in 1923.

INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,084 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 328 oil-burning heaters, making a total of 668 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. Before permits were issued by this office to install these plants careful inspections were made by inspectors of this office to see that the regulations governing the installation of oil-burning equipment could be complied with in each case, and subsequent inspections were made to see that these plants had been installed in strict compliance with the regulations.

Three hundred and four installations of gasoline tanks were made in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. As in the case of the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made to see that the regulations governing the installation of these tanks could be complied with before permits to install them were issued. At the end of the fiscal year there were in the District of Columbia 882 public gasoline stations.

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TABLE NO. 2.—*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*

	Num- ber		Num- ber
Acetylene torch, hose blew off, igniting gas	1	Bread on top of heating plant igniting and setting joists afire	1
Alarms, false	278	Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning	289
Alarms, no fire		Can of paint left in oven of stove and ignited when fire was made in stove	1
Ammonia escaping from ammonia plant	8	Candles (sulphur), fumigating with	7
Bank of excavation falling on man	1	Candles (wax) igniting Christmas tree; careless use with	6
Company sent to take cat out of tree	1	Careless use with fire	3
Cornice hanging from roof	1	Careless use with kerosene oil	1
Fire-alarm bells rang accidentally	7	Celluloid brush became ignited from heat of furnace	1
Gas leaking	5	Chaff in flue of coffee roaster igniting	1
Horse broke through floor of bridge	1	Chandelier fell down while lighted and escaping gas ignited	1
Horse in manhole in street	2	Children playing with fire	19
Horse in marsh	1	Children playing with lighted lantern	1
Horse's leg caught in sewer trap	1	Chimney, defective	43
Man caught between elevator and floor	1	Chimney, floor joists set in same and igniting	2
Man fell in sewer	1	Chimney hole, rags or paper in same igniting	3
Man unconscious on roof	1	Chimney, soot in, catching fire	207
Rescuing boats from flood	1	Circuit breaker short-circuiting	1
Scow upset	1	Clothes bleached dry on stove and igniting	1
Smokestack about to fall	1	Dress cleaned with gasoline ignited while being ironed	1
Sprinkler pipe burst	1	Dust around steam pipe ignited	1
Steam boiler burst	3	Dust in hot-air pipe igniting	1
Steam escaping	15	Dust on ducts in power house ignited from sparks	1
Steam from fire ruins	1	Electric cable short-circuiting	1
Steamboat stuck in mud	1	Electric curling iron, current left on	1
Tree fell on automobile, house	4	Electric fan, overheated journal	1
Wall of dwelling house collapsed	1	Electric flatiron put away hot; current left on	15
Wall of house hot from chimney of adjoining house	1	Electric-light bulb igniting combustible material	2
Water back in furnace burst	2	Electric motor igniting dust and lint which settled on same	1
Water flooding lunch room	1	Electric motor short-circuiting	4
Water pipe burst	6	Electric transformer short-circuiting; overheated	2
Alcohol igniting lace curtains	1	Electric wires short-circuiting:	
Alcohol torch exploding	1	At switch box; fuse box	2
Ashes (hot) thrown or falling on combustible material	32	Fire-alarm system	3
Automobiles:		In conduit	3
Alcohol in radiator ignited from lighted match	1	In elevator motor	1
Back-firing	89	In houses	12
Brake lining ignited	2	In tree	6
Burning carbon out of cylinders	1	In washing machine	1
Carburetor leaking; flooding	16	Meat grinder	1
Collision between two automobiles	2	Motor of gasoline pump	1
Clutch lining ignited	1	On desk	1
Collided with street curb and ignited	1	On electric-light poles	6
Drive shaft resting on body of truck and igniting same	1	On launch	1
Electric wires short-circuiting	158	On roof	1
Engine overheated igniting gasoline	3	On street	2
Exhaust pipe overheated	1	On street cars	17
Fell down embankment and ignited	1	Plug in charging station	1
Flame from burner on steam automobile mistaken for auto fire	1	Embers from burning trash put in wood box	1
Gasoline dropping on hot exhaust pipes	12	Erroneous alarms	1
Gasoline fumes igniting	13	Ether petroleum, igniting while experimenting with	1
Gasoline igniting	2	Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves	31
Gasoline line leaking	9	Film igniting in motion-picture machine	2
Gasoline pipe disconnected	1	Flatiron left hot on ironing board	1
Gasoline tank leaking	3	Floor wax catching fire while being melted on stoves	1
Gasoline vapors igniting from loose exhaust pipe	1	Flues, defective	4
Grease fell on hot exhaust pipe and ignited	1	Fire in hood of incinerator showing on roof	1
Hot brakes causing smoke to issue from rear wheels	1	Fire left burning in forge in plumber's shop	1
Kerosene overflowing and igniting from pilot light	1	Fireworks igniting combustible material	5
Oil dripping on rear lamp and igniting	1	Friction from ice machine igniting belt	1
Overheated boiler	3	Friction of metal on clothes in washing machine igniting clothes	1
Overheated differential	2	Furnace bricks fell out; caves of boiler room ignited	1
Overheated exhaust pipe	1	Furnace heat pipe overheated igniting wood-work	2
Radiator leaking	1	Furnace pipe too close to ceiling, igniting paper on rafters	1
Rag dropped on hot exhaust pipe	1	Furnace installed on wood joists	1
Ran into trash fire and ignited	1		
Soldering leak in gasoline tank, gasoline igniting	1		
Static electricity causing gasoline to ignite	1		
Unknown origin	2		
Back-fire from carburetor on cement mixing machine	1		
Boiling tar igniting kitchen	1		
Bonfire on college campus	2		

TABLE No. 2.—*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded, etc.*—Continued

	Number		Number
Furnace overheated, igniting floor.....	5	Mischievous fires.....	2
Gas escaping from coal stove and exploding.....	1	Oil-burning heating plants:	
Gas escaping from broken lamp-post.....	1	Combination chamber fell off, causing	
Gas escaping from gas range and igniting.....	1	oil to spill on floor and ignite.....	1
Gas fixture broke and flame ignited ceiling.....	1	Clogged with carbon, causing overflow	
Gas fixture flaming and igniting door.....	1	of oil, which ignited.....	1
Gas fumes ignited by electric stove.....	1	Damper in furnace pipe closed too tight,	
Gas heater too close to combustible material.....	1	preventing fumes from escaping, caus-	
Gas hose blew off gas stove.....	1	ing explosion.....	1
Gas iron overheated, igniting ironing board.....	1	Oil leaking and igniting.....	3
Gas jet ignited combustibles too near.....	8	Pilot light went out and oil overflowed	
Gas jet pulled away from ceiling.....	1	into furnace pit and ignited.....	5
Gas leaking and exploding.....	1	Open fireplace:	
Gas leaking and igniting when match was		Defective.....	4
lighted.....	2	Fire in, igniting floor.....	5
Gaslight ignited curtains; partitions.....	3	For gas log, wood fire built in same.....	3
Gaslight on lamp-post flaring up.....	1	Paper lantern falling from gas jet, igniting	
Gaslight ignited meat in smokehouse.....	1	bed.....	1
Gas log heated wall, causing scare.....	1	Plumber's furnace exploded.....	1
Gas log ignited false chimney.....	1	Plumber's torch ignited crate.....	1
Gas log overheated, igniting partition.....	1	Poker (hot) put against woodwork.....	1
Gas mantle fell from gas jet and ignited chair.....	1	Pressing machine igniting clothing.....	1
Gas mantle fell from lamp-post, causing large		Rags burning in furnace mistaken for house	
flame to issue.....	1	afire.....	1
Gas pipe in lamp-post leaking and blazing.....	6	Rags (oily) on radiator, ignited.....	1
Gas pipe leaking.....	2	Rags soaked with gasoline, ignited.....	1
Gas range ignited after having been cleaned		Rekindling of old fire.....	12
with inflammable fluid.....	1	Reflection of fire from salamanders.....	2
Gas range, insufficient air space under same,		Rubber tube on gas heater broke.....	1
igniting floor.....	1	Safety valve blew off steam boiler.....	1
Gas range too close to partition.....	2	Sent to wrong location.....	1
Gas tube on pressing machine ignited.....	1	Shavings fell down radiator.....	3
Gasoline, careless use with.....	8	Shavings piled against heater.....	1
Gasoline fumes ignited from open flame.....	7	Smoke in houses from chimneys, furnaces,	
Gasoline fumes ignited when motor was		fireplaces, salamanders, stoves.....	81
started.....	1	Smoke from smokehouse.....	1
Gasoline fumes ignited from pressing ma-		Smoking, careless.....	279
chine.....	2	Smokepipe:	
Gasoline ignited from friction while cleaning		Extending through woodwork.....	6
clothes.....	4	Hole filled with rags.....	1
Gasoline line to motor leaking and igniting.....	1	Defective; overheated.....	17
Gasoline mistaken for kerosene and put in		Soot in, catching fire.....	2
lamp.....	1	Too close to ceiling.....	4
Gasoline pressure lamp exploded.....	1	Too near woodwork.....	1
Gasoline ignited from friction of wire brush.....	2	Soft coal igniting from hot wall; heat of	
Gasoline tank leaking and catching fire.....	2	furnace.....	2
Gasoline torch ignited boat.....	1	Sparks from bonfires, chimneys, cotton-	
Gasoline torch ignited partition while paint		picking machine, emery wheel, furnaces,	
was being burned off.....	1	incinerators, locomotives, painters torch,	
Grease in gas range catching fire.....	1	stoves, stovepipes.....	128
Grease in ventilating stack ignited.....	8	Steampipe overheated, igniting lumber.....	1
Hay dropped through cracks in floor on hot		Stoves (coal), combustibles too close.....	35
exhaust pipe and ignited.....	1	overheated; combustibles too close.....	1
Heat pipe too close to lath and plaster ceiling.....	1	Stove (gas), cleaning with oily rag.....	1
Heat from wall of boiler room ignited box of		Stoves (gas), combustibles too close; hose	
cork.....	1	disconnected.....	17
Heating wax to extract it from barrel; wax		Stoves (gasoline), leaking.....	2
ignited.....	1	Stoves (kerosene), catching fire; defective;	
Hot-water coil exploded.....	1	exploding; flame too high; overheated;	
Hot-water heater too close to woodwork.....	3	overflowing; too close to combustibles.....	48
Incendiary fires.....	9	Stove (drotbe) set on thin base, floor	
Incense burner igniting clothes thrown on		igniting.....	2
same.....	1	Spontaneous combustion.....	25
Iron (electric), current left on.....	1	Suspicious fires.....	22
Ironing machine (electric), current left on.....	1	Tar pot boiling over and catching fire.....	8
Lamp (kerosene) exploded; upset.....	15	Testing fire-resisting quality of specially	
Lamp (kerosene) ignited incubator.....	2	treated shingles.....	1
Lantern (kerosene) overheated; upset.....	2	Thawing frozen water pipes.....	5
Lead-melting pot too near window frame.....	1	Thawing frozen water pipes mistaken for	
Lime slaking in sack and catching fire.....	1	house afire.....	2
Light from plumber's torch mistaken for		Trash burning, igniting porch.....	1
house afire.....	1	Toy electric train short-circuiting.....	1
Lightning, struck by.....	5	Turpentine and paint against hot-water	
Mash boiling over and ignited.....	1	pipe ignited.....	1
Matches:		Two alarms sounded for same fire.....	7
Careless use with.....	166	Unknown origin.....	5
Children playing with.....	86	Wax form for cement pit left under furnace	
Dishes falling on and igniting matches.....	1	and ignited.....	1
Ignited from friction.....	1		
Rats or mice causing matches to ignite.....	21		2, 632
Shelf fell on coat, igniting matches in		Fires outside of District of Columbia.....	38
pocket.....	1		2, 670
Motion-picture film ignited in motion-			
picture machine.....	1		

